

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02
/073 W

-----040211Z 112762 /70

R 031600Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4345
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IT
SUBJ: MAY DAY IN ITALY

1. LABOR DAY IN ITALY WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE QUALITY AND CONTENT OF THE ORATORY DECLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE SCARCITY OF UNTOWARD INCIDENT. PROMPT ACTION BY BOTH THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES AND THE CCU MARSHALS ABORTED ISOLATED EXTREMIST ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP TROUBLE. ATTENDENCE WAS MODEST, PARTLY BECAUSE MAY DAY CAME ON SUNDAY, A DAY WORKERS PREFERRED TO SPEND CONSUMING SOME OF THAT \$2.25 PER GALLON GAS ON EXCURSIONS WITH THEIR FAMILIES, PARTLY BECAUSE ITALIAN WORKERS ARE BEGINNING TO TIRE TO REPEATED CALLS FOR PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS KIND.

2. DESPITE THE CONTINUING LIP SERVICE RENDERED TO LABOR
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UNITY, THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH THE PRINCIPAL MAY DAY SPEAKERS WERE UNITED WAS IN CATEGORICALLY DENOUNCING THE ESCALATING RESORT TO VIOLENCE ("THE POLICY OF TENSION") FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF POLITICAL ENDS AND THE RISE IN COMMON CRIMINALITY. OTHERWISE, AS THE MAJOR DAILY LA STAMPA NOTES, WITH RESPECT TO THE CURRENT INTER-PARTY TALKS WHICH SEEK TO REDEFINE THE MANDATE OF THE

MINORITY ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS REFLECTED THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE ASSOCIATED MUCH MORE THAN THEY RESEMBLED THE VIEWS OF EACH OTHER. THUS, UIL CHIEF BENVEENUTO (PSI), IN PESCARA, VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT, DENOUNCED ITS INCOMPETENCE AND CALLED FOR ITS DEMISE. CGIL BOSS LAMA (PCI), IN BOLOGNA, QUOTED PCI CHIEF BERLINGUER ALMOST VERBATIM IN ASSERTING THAT "THE MOMENT FOR A DECISIVE POLITICAL CHANGE," I.E., INCLUDING THE PCI IN THE GOVERNMENT PROCESS, HAS ARRIVED. MACARIO (DC), ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF CISL, TOLD HIS VICENZA AUDIENCE THAT "THE PRIMARY DECISION FACING US IS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTENTS, RATHER THAN THE PARTICIPANTS, IN NATIONAL POLICY, ON WHICH PROCESS THE UNIONS CAN IMPOSE A POSITIVE INPUT".

3. FOR THE REST, CONTEMPORARY BOILERPLATE CARRIED THE DAY. THERE WERE THE USUAL CALLS FOR JOB SECURITY AND JOB CREATION, FOR INVESTMENTS IN THE SOUTH, FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS TO EMPLOY FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS, AND FOR SUBSTANTIVE LABOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL/MANAGERIAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS. THESE THEMES ARE UNREELED BY ROTE BUT RARELY CONTAIN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH RISE ABOVE THE LEVEL OF FAMILIAR RHETORICAL EXHORTATION.GARDNER

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